MESSAGES FOR PEACE

On the occasion of the Inaugural Ceremony of

THE GREAT SRIPADA PEACE PAGODA

February 25th B.E.2521.

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JAPAN BUDDHA SANGHA
8-7 Shinsen-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

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THE PRECEPTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE GREAT SRI PADA PEACE PAGODA

By: The Most Venerable Nichidatsu Gyosho-in Fujii,
President of the Japan Buddha Sangha

February 25th., B.E. 2521

NA MU MYO HO REN GE KYO

Here at Seetagangula, located at the mid-height of the Sri Pada, the supreme sacred ground of Buddhism, a Great Peace Pagoda has been constructed in order to enshrine the relics of Sakyamuni, The Buddha.

A grand Inaugural Ceremony shall now take place with the attendance of people from far and near and from all levels of life; from government personels to people in the street, including those who have already taken to the ORDER and those who have not.

The Elders and the High Priests of the Sangha in Sri Lanka were rejoiced at the announcement of my wish and vow to construct a peace pagoda hereon this ground of supreme sanctity, and expressed their spontaneous intent of support for my wish.

The then incumbent President of Sri Lanka considered it to be good to have the peace pagoda constructed as the SUPREME OBJECT OF WORSHIP, for all peoples of the world, at which they should converge in their pursuit of lasting peace, and he conducted the Foundation Laying Ceremony and purified the site in person.

Since then, the people of Sri Lanka both old and young made frequent pilgrimages to this Great Peace Pagoda under construction and were rejoiced at the auspicious sign of Buddhism to flourish.

The sanctity of Sri Pada, I believe, originates from the teachings of Sakyamuni, The Buddha. The Lanka Awatara Sutra says:

> "At that time, King Ravana of Lanka sang a GATA in praise of Sakyamuni, The Buddha, and said,
>
> 'After the seven days' stay in the Ocean,
> The Enlightened One left the Palace of

Nagaraja
And has now emerged on this shore of Lanka
In absolute peace of mind.'

'Elevated by the Thatagata's Divine Power,
I am brought here to announce my name
to Thee.
I who possess ten heads is the King
of Rakshasas, Ravana,
Has come to pay homage to and to
receive Thee.'

'I beg Thee, Oh Lord, that myself and
all people Of the Lanka Kingdom
Shalt be accepted as Thy disciples.'

'Each of the innumerable Buddhas of the Past
Staying at the Peak of the Sacred Mountain
of Lanka
Preached the Dharma which he acquired.

Let me therefore humbly request
Thee to do the same.
Be pleased to sojourn at this holy Mountain,
And preach the Parama Pavitra Dharma.'

'I beg Thee, Oh Lord, that Thou shalt be
compassionate to us, The Yaksas,
And also enter the Palace of Lanka
To preach the Sattya Dharma.'

'This wounderful Palace of Lanka is adorned
with various gems,
And its walls are not made of stone nor soil.
The curtains that hang are also of precious
jewels.
I beg to place another entreaty before
the Lord,
That Thou shalt be pleased to accept this
palace for Thy use.'

At that time, the Tathagata immediately replied to these entreaties and said:

'Listen to me, Oh King of Yaksas!
All the Enlightened Preachers of
the Past
Had their profound sympathy and
poured their compassion
On Thy people, and accepting
their wishes,
Visited the sacred mountain,
And preached the Dharma they
acquired.'

'Innumerable future Buddhas shalt
also do so.
This shalt therefore, be an abode
for all
Those who seek the Buddhahood into
their minds,
And wish to have what they acquire
manifested
In their serene life that is
enjoyable to all.'

'I, The Buddha, together with a
host of Bodhisattvas,
Shalt be pleased to accept thy
bequeethes,
And let my compassion be always
on thee.'"

- Excerpts from the Lanka Awatara Sutra -

A perusal with reverence of this Sutra brings us the understanding that this Sri Pada was not only the sacred abode of Sakyamuni, The Buddha, for His turning the Wheel of Dharma, but had also been so for various Buddhas of the past, and will also be so for all Buddhas to come. Sri Pada shall therefore be the place for all Buddhas in the past, present and future to turn the Wheel of Dharma forever and ever.

Sri Pada is sacred as it is the Prabhutaratana Giri composed of and adorned with various kinds of precious gem, and shall remain sacred in all times to come as one of the most sanctified mountains protected by all gods and men.

Over two and a half Millenia have passed, since the Demise of The Buddha, and the world is now entering the Vicious Era of Decay and has become bound by all sorts of conflicting force of destruction, thereby all sentient beings, sharing our days, are exposed to the ever-increasing threat of an eventual total annihiration. At this moment, I found in

the Sutra, the very passage which reads as mentioned above, and I repeat quoting:

> "This (sacred mountain) shalt forever be an abode
> of all
> Those who seek the Buddhahood into their minds,
> And wish to have what they acquire manifested
> In their serene life enjoyable to all."

And, on my part, I do enjoy the serenity to be shared by all, as the Heavenly Drums are sounding and resounding of themselves, while I have been taking shelter in this sacred mountain area, which is adorned with various gems.

I feel as if the Sutra had long before correctly predicted on me, and of all the moves I make.

Further, aren't all those young men and women, who have been to this abode with me, the privileged ones to have had the designation by the Buddha, Sakyamuni in person, the Master of all Precepts, and to have been entrusted with the noble task of alleviating the sufferings of all sentient beings of our days and future. And when they would for themselves realize the significance of Tathagata's designation and the task entrusted, and if they would undergo the practices in seeking the Buddhahood into their minds, in a manner they have been taught (by the Nichiren Bodhisattva) in His Treatise on the Method of Seeking the Buddhahood into Ones Minds, in the Era of Decay, after two and a half Millenia since the Demise of the Tathagata (NYORAI METSUGO GO-GOHYAKU-SAI-SHI KWANJIN-HONZON SHO), how happy should they be about their virtuous deeds they performed in the past being awarded to-day in accordance with the Law of Causation.

I wonder if this Great Peace Pagoda has been built by Viswakarman. Viswakarman stayed in heaven and did not discend, but perhaps initiated the skill of constructing a peace pagoda to the youths on Earth. The youths on Earth did not ascend to heaven, but perhaps were bestowed with the skill of constructing a peace pagoda from Viswakarman. And, only because of this, I believe, though using an extremely primitive technique, some tens youths who were at first quite unskilled have become capable of accomplishing this Great peace Pagoda within only ten months.

Throughout all ages in the history, this Great Peace Pagoda is unparalleled in its speed of completion.

It shall now be dedicated to Sakyamuni, The Buddha.

May it, therefore, be accepted by the Tathagata with His boundless compassion !

THE SPEACH MADE ON THE OCCASION OF THE FOUNDATION LAYING CEREMONY OF THE GREAT SRI PADA PEACE PAGODA

By: The Most Venerable Nichidatsu Gyosho-in Fujii
President of the Japan Buddha Sangha

February 26th., B.E. 2519

NA MU MYO HO REN GE KYO

(I)

A great joint venture between the Buddhists of Japan and Sri Lanka to construct a Peace Pagoda was initiated by me for the first time in the history of Buddhism in Sri Lanka since its introduction 2,300 years ago.

The projected site of construction here is located at the mid-height of the Sri Pada, the supreme sacred mountain, revered widely by all people here as the Center of Buddhism of a Buddhist country with its longest tradition and history in the world and with the most profound faith and deeply rooted way of life under the influence of the teachings of the Buddha.

A couple of auspicious cermonies have been conducted yesterday (February 25th) and to-day. And we have just had the Foundation of the projected Pagoda laid by His Excellency Mr. William Gopallawa, The President of Republic of Sri Lanka, in person. I believe that Buddhism of this country will take another flourishing turn from this point, and the mutual co-operation between the Buddhists of Japan and Sri Lanka be brought closer than any other days before.

Sakyamuni, the Expounder of all precepts, to whom all of us are equally indebted, got enlightened and became the Buddha, 2,500 years ago, at the age of thirty, upon the Lion Throne under the shelter of Maha Bodhi Tree near Gaya, and then proceeded to Sarnath in order to turn the Wheel of Dharma on the Four Noble Truths for the first time addressing the five Bhikkhu disciples. Since that time on, the Enlightened One set off for the extensive preaching tour for twelve years and expounded the Agama part of His teachings in Four Categories, and then emerged in the island of Lanka, took up His abode on top of the mountain known now as Sri Pada and emanated from there the teachings of Maha Yana, which were composed into the Lanka Awatara Sutra, for a host of

Bodhisattvas. The Lanka Awatara Sutra was translated into our language and its existence is now prevalently known by all Buddhists in Japan.

(II)

To speak of myself, I visited Sri Lanka for the first time in the year B.E. 2475 (1932), and paid my reverent homage to the Sri Pada. I took up then an abode at this place, Seetagangula, inside a cave in order to undertake a few hundreds days' meditation, for which purpose I arranged my seat with collected dry grass. On completing the long meditation, I set off for a pilgrimage throughout the country, and per chance stayed in a newly built monastery in the village of Ginigathena. The incumbent Abbot of the Manastery then was the late Venerable N. Piyaratana Thera. He welcomed me with enthusiasm and presented me with a few pieces of the Buddha's relic. It was on the 25th of August, B.E. 2476 (1933)

The High Priest pleaded me over and over again that the Japanese Buddhists should do their best to reflourish Buddhism not only in Japan but throughout the world for the establishment of lasting peace on Earth, and that for this purpose, a World Peace Pagoda should be constructed in Japan.

The World War II was ended in the year 1945. Japan surrendered as the result of complete defeat. At the last moment of the War, we received attacks with two Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We the people of Japan adopted a new Constitution as the fundamental Statute for our national behaviour reflecting the experiences mentioned above. The Constitution expresses the people's determination for a complete disarmament and for the denunciation of the Administrative rights to wage wars under any circumstances. We also promissed in the Constitution towards the whole world that Japan would remain to be a non-belligerent, cultural and welfare state forever, and would contribute her share for the cause of lasting peace.

In order to comply with the plea of the Donor High priest of the relics of the Buddha, I launched a movement in Japan to construct as many peace pagodas as possible in my vow to convert our nation from a war-like into a pacific nation to devote herself for the establishment of a world without arms and without war. Until to-day, about fifty odd World Peace Pagodas have been constructed throughout the deapth and width of my country.

In due course, I expanded the scope of the movement world wide, with a view to further totally convert the world public for the same goal. Now, such pagodas have been completed in two places in India, first in Rajgir (Bihar) and second in Kalinga (orissa), which are being followed by other initiatives from various places.

In the United States of America, plans are under-way for the construction of peace pagodas in cities such as Sanfrancisco, Boston, Washington D.C. and others. In Europe, we also propose to construct the same in Geneva, (Switzerland) and also in Moscow, (U.S.S.R.), and so on and so forth.

(III)

The latter half of my life has thus been fully devoted to the achievement of a Bodhisattva's vow to construct as many Peace Pagodas as possible. I learned this from the tradition of Buddhists in Sri Lanka. In this country, Pagodas are built in each and every city and town, village and humlet. In order further to flourish Buddhism in this country, to make this country a beacon of the world for peace and finally to convert the world public from its materialistic, mechanical and belligerent civilization towards another abound in opportunities for enjoyable life of serenity, leading all the sentient beings out of the darkness that has engulfed the whole of humanity under the threat of total annihiration, I proposed to add one more pagoda upon many and took an earnest vow that this should soon be realized.

Blessings were given to this vow right away by the Most Venerable Batugedara Yasassi Maha Nayaka Thera, the Incumbent High Priest of the Sri Pada, offering a piece of the Buddha's relic to be enshrined atop the projected Great Sri Pada Peace Pagoda.

I wish to express my whole hearted gratitude to such a noble response that I often experienced on occasions of this kind, that wherever I took such a vow of constructing a pagoda, the relic of the Buddha emerged of itself for the enshrinment thereof.

I would add one thing more. The 47th Anniversary of the demise of my mother fell exactly on yesterday - on the same day of the same month. I always feel that such function of some merits has often been conducted on or around this date. I believe that it has always been so due to the remained will of my mother who wished to join me in all such meritorious accomplishments, thus has protected her son's behavious from her realm, for which I am grateful.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

December 10th., 1977

I have much pleasure in sending this Message on the occasion of the opening of Japan Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda.

The Japan Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda in Sri Lanka constructed by the Japan Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda Construction Society, with the patronage of the Japan Organization of Buddha Dhamma - Sanga, will be symbol of the aspirations of the peace-loving people of Japan and Sri Lanka. The selection of its site in the Sri Pada area, hallowed by the visit of the Lord Buddha, has added significance. The modern world, with its highly advanced science and economy, has felt the need for world peace and harmony more than ever before. In this connection a great service can be rendered by spreading the message of the Lord Buddha throughout the world.

If all the nations and countries of the world follow the path of Dhamma instead of the path of war and conflict, we are assured of a future where peace, tolerance and harmony will reign supreme.

The Buddhist missionaries who visited Sri Lanka in the past, contributed immensely to the promotion of culture in this country through Buddhist literature and Pali language. Similarly, the construction of the Japan-Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda which was the outcome of several visits to Sri Lanka by the Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii, will certainly promote and develop the longstanding religious and cultural relations between Sri Lanka and Japan.

May the chain of Peace Pagodas that would be constructed in this manner throughout the world, contribute to the realisation of world peace and harmony.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

New Delhi

January 24th., 1978

The teachings of Lord Buddha are among the greatest treasures of man kind. Buddhism has brought together the peoples of many lands and in particular the message of compassion and peace is of intrinsic value to the future of the human race.

I send my good wishes for the success of the Japan-Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda Project.

Morarji Desai

MESSAGE FROM SIAM NIKAYA

MALWATHU CHAPTER

By: The Most Venerable Sri Malwatte Ananda,
Maha Nayaka Thero

JAPAN - SRI LANKA PEACE PAGODA

Every one in the world always expects to lead a free and peaceful life, either individually or collectively. The only way of creating this situation is by understanding intellegently, Buddhism in its proper context and acting accordingly. For the basis of such peace, the construction of this Japan Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda is a commemorative land mark.

Further, the proposal to construct this commemorative Pagoda at Sri Pada, hallowed by the Feet of the Lord Buddha, for the 3rd time in the 8th year of His Attaining Enlightment, is highly commendable.

Therefore it is our wish that the peaceful and cordial friendship now existing between Japan and Sri Lanka be further strengthened by the construction of this commemorative Peace Pagoda.

Ven. Sirimalwatte Ananda Thero.

MESSAGE FROM SIAM NIKAYA

ASGIRI CHAPTER

By: The Most Venerable Palipana Sri Chandananda,
Maha Nayaka Thero

PEACE PAGODA AT SRI PADA

The Peace Pagoda built at Sri Pada at the instance of the Most Ven. Fujii Nayake Thero, the Buddhist leader with the donations given by the Buddhists of Japan and which is being declared open today will be a monument of friendship to the Buddhists of Sri Lanka and Japan.

The Most Venerable Fujii Nayake Thero, travelled in many parts of the world preaching about the havoc caused and is being caused by war, and also the benefits of peace has rendered a signal service, in creating kindness, sympathy, compassion and friendship among the peoples of the world.

The Japanese suffered from their own thurst for war. Once they were out to establish their supremacy by conquering weaker nations, are today to condemn wars. The wealth and energy of the nation that was used for strengthening military activities are now being directed for national development. Therefore Japan today occupies the highest place in the world in economic development.

People of Japan have a High regard for Sri Lanka and the Sinhalese people. They hold in high esteem the Sinhala Bikkhu and the Theravada traditions. They do not like those who are opportunists. This was evident to us when we visited Japan. The Japanese Buddhist Clergy is very devoutly organized and enterprising.

The Ven. Fujii Nayake Thero, came here about 40 years ago and spent 100 days at Sri Pada in leasure. We came to understand that he selected Sri Pada for construction of the Peace Pagoda owing to an immortal impression he had about Sri Pada during his stay in the precints of Sri Pada, and thereby he has strengthened the friendly ties between the Buddhists of the two countries.

We hope that in the time to come the religious ties between the two countries will develop further and the Theravada Dhamma and customs and traditions will spread throughout Japan.

Palipana Sri Chandananda

MESSAGE FROM AMARAPURA NIKAYA

By: The Most Venerable Kosgoda Dhammawansa,
Maha Nayaka Thero

I think it appropriate to examine the motive of constructing a Peace Pagoda as this, in Sri Lanka, A Theravada Buddhist country.

The world will never forget the most dreadful human slaughter caused by the American bombs directed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, during the 2nd World War.

Even prior to this dreadful event a Non Violent Campaigne had been launched by a Most Venerable Japanese Nayake Thero of fame by the name of Fujii. No doubt the Hiroshima Nagasaki incident would have injected more and more life into this movement. Merely due to this incident the Nayake Thero travelled in most parts of the world placing before the world the value of peace. During these journeys he would have surely seen with his own eyes the havoc caused to countries due to breach of peace. After this practical knowledge it became his pure intention to make the people of the world live in peace as members of one family. Basically to create this situation Buddhism teaches 'Mettha', 'Karuna' 'Muditha' and 'Upekkha'. If the people of the world could be asked to walk on this path, it could be said that this is the real path to peace.

Warrior Kings like the Emperor Dharmasoka tred this path, the path preached by the Lord Buddha, trained and taught people for peaceful living. This Nayake Thero to a great extent follows this same path and explains to the world the value of peace.

It is well known that this Fujii Nayake Thero came to Sri Lanka in 1933 and lived in the Nissanka Cave at Gangulatenne, Sri Pada, for some times. He worshiped the Sacred Foot Print daily and spent the rest of his time in calm meditation. During the same period the Bikkhu named 'Miki' who traversed every village and Town we came to understand in one of Fujii Maha Thero's own pupils. This Bikkhu Miki now managing a Home for the aged at Kyoto, in Japan belonging to this Maha Thero. We met him in 1975 when we visited Japan. We remember how he entertained by reciting Sinhala verses.

It is praiseworthy that this Maha Thero selected Sri Pada, a place which enticed him during his stay here, to build the

Peace Pagoda. While taking the message of peace to countries where Buddhists live, it is his noble intention to build Peace Pagodas as an emblem of Peace. To fulfil this intention peace loving people in every cities extends him their cooperation. In Sri Lanka too he receives this co-operation in no small measure. The Japan Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda Construction Society and the Agrasrawaka Vihara at Maligakanda are such institutions. With the help and assistance of these two organizations not only a Pagoda has been built but also a 2 storyed Monastery for the benefit of pilgrims. Only those who have been to Sri Pada will know about this. It is quite evident from this, to what an extent he likes the people of Sri Lanka. A large sum of money has been spent on this work. The Maha Thero is now old and feeble. I therefore invoke the Blessings of the Triple Gem and of the god Sumanaso that the Maha Thero, who is engaged in this great service, and the Japanese Bikkhus and other helpers may be healthy and live long.

Kosgoda Dhammawansa Thero.

MESSAGE FROM RAMANNA NIKAYA

By: The Most Venerable Induruwe Uttarananda,
Maha Nayaka Thero

PEACE PAGODA

All people of the world should wish to have peace. There's nothing happier than to live without being involved in various conflicts and wars. But there seems to be several obstracles to enjoy this peace. the Main root cause for these obstacles is craving. Because of this inherent and inhate craving in human nature, people are motivated to desire various things. The effort of one country to be superior to another country and of one nation to be superior to another nation are the results of this desire. According to Buddhism, all the conflicts and wars in the world are a result of this desire or craving. As these conflicts, confrontations and controversy lead to wars between and among nations, every effort must be made to live in peace and harmony.

The disaster brought about by the 2nd World War is indescribable and beyond measures. Even to focus the attention on the sufferings that resulted from this war apprears not to be pleasant nor necessary now. Therefore, it is better now to speak of the benefits of peace rather than the disaster of war. Nevertheless, it is good to set an example or show a model leading to peace rather than continue to go on speaking of peace. Most venerable Nichidatsu Fujii is a hero who has set such an example after great World War II and lead an non-violent campaign more than anybody also for the period of 45 years all over the world by showing the great disaster that may result from another World War. As a symbol to commemorate peace, he has taken a lead in errecting peace pagodas wherever possible in the world.

We are made to understand that Most Venerable Fujii who wish to see people of the whole world live in peace and harmony as brothers and sisters, decided to errect the first peace pagoda in Sri Lanka. He has selected Sri Pada area for this purpose. It is a well-known fact that in the year 1933 he has visited this island and lived 100 days engaged in worshiping the Sri Pada devotedly and developing meditation in the Nissanka Cave situated at Gangulatenna on the Hatton rout to Sri Pada. The idea of building peace pagodas in the

whole world may have emerged in his mind during this period. Therefor, the may have founded Japan Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda Construction Society. As it's construction is now over, it will be ceremonially inaugurated on the 25th of February this year with the full co-operation of Sri Lanka too. This inauguration of the peace pagoda is also an honor to Sri Lanka. Also due to the affection and respect Most Venerable Fujii has for our country and people, he may have decided to construct this peace pagoda in our country. We can hope that this gesture will promote not only the harmonious cultural relations between our two countries but will also lead to co-operation in the economic development of our country. Although it is true that our two countries have developed close relations in different activities in the past, of late, this relationship has been further developed in a wider field of activities. His Excellency J.R. JAYAWARDANE, President of Republic of Sri Lanka contributed a great deal in promoting this close relation particularly because he was a champion for the course of full freedom for Japan and to wave the compensation for our country. The building of this peace pagoda by Most Venerable Fujii has strengthened this relation. Therefor, may be live long in perfect health accomplishing all these life aspirations by the power of the Triple Gem and with the help of all devine beings including the diety Sumana who is himself a noble diciplt of the Buddha.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAHABODHI SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

By: The Most Ven. Hedigalle Pannatissa, Maha Nayaka Thero
High Priest of the Maha Bodhi Society of Sri Lanka
and Sanchi Temple.

THE PEACE PAGODA AT SRI PADA

It is a matter for rejoice to all the Buddhists in the World that the Peace Pagoda has been built at Sri Pada, where the Imprint of the Foot of the Lord Buddha is. This Pagoda has been built by the Japan Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda Construction Society under the patronage of, the Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii, Head of the Nichiren Maha Nikaya of Japan. Having suffered by the great disaster in the 2nd World War, the Japanese people are engaged in an effort to bring about peace in the world so that such armed clashes will not repeat themselves. The Japanese Sanghanayake the Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii is also working towards this end. His strong belief is that world peace could be spread by the construction of Peace Pagodas as these. Therefore he expects to build Peace Pagodas in all countries of the world. Now the work of the first Peace Pagoda at Rajagiri in India has been completed. After this he expects to build Peace Pagodas in countries in Europe. Fujii Nayake Thero who is now 92 years old is really a Bodhisattva. He has dedicated his whole life for the cause of Buddhism and the people of Sri Lanka while highly appreciating his services wish him good health and long life.

I appreciate the co-operation given by the former and present Governments in the task of constructing this Peace Pagoda. It can be mentioned with rejoice that the construction of the Peace Pagoda was possible mainly due to the co-operation extended by the Venerable Batugedra Nayake Thero, the Trustee of Sri Pada. His patronage was helpful to the Japan-Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda Construction Society.

Ven. Hedigalle Pannatissa Mahanayake Thero.

MESSAGE FROM THE SRI PADA NAYAKA THERO

By: The Most Venerable Batugedara Yasassi, Nayaka Thero

PEACE - THE SIGN OF VICTORY

The necessity for peace comes from the four corners of the world. The voice of peace which was only confined to words and discussions and thus faded into oblivion was reached throughout the world by the great angel of peace the Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii Nayaka Thero, and the People of Sri Lanka consider it a priviledge to have got the oppertunity to join him in his endevour.

The Most Venerable Nayake Thero who arrived in Sri Lanka and stayed at the Nissanka Cave on the Hatton route near the peak of Sri Pada mountain and made various offerings to the Sacred Foot Print, after going back to Japan travelled in every country of the world facing the riggers of physical hardship and explained to the world the dreadfulness of Nuclear Weapons. For the same reason Peace Pagodas were built in Japan and other countries.

The building of the emblem of victory for peace in Sri Lanka was started on the 25th February, 1976. The site at Gangulatenne in Sri Pada was selected due to the fact that the Ven. Fujii Maha Thero, stayed there for some time about forty five years ago and also due to the purity and holiness of the place. It is a matter for great rejoice to us that the work has been completed in a very short time by the Japan Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda Construction Society, founded by the Fujii Nayake Thero and a few distinguished persons. The entire expenses have been borne by the Buddhists of Japan. The flames of war in the present world could be quenched only by the Buddha Dhamma. The action taken by the Ven. Fujii Nayake Thero for the spread of Buddha Dhamma, will be an example to all nations of the world. The Ven. Fujii Nayake Thero, preached to the world showing the desasterous consequences of war. He is an emblem of kindness and compassion. He shows extreme kindness to Sri Lanka, an important place for Theravada Buddhism. The cultural relations that existed for centuries will be further strengthened and that is our belief, and the peaceful relations between the two countries will be on a firm foundation.

The world already knows the effectiveness of Nuclear Weapons. This is a result of physical and mental reactions. The White Paper of the U.N.O. on Human Rights states that peace should originate in the man's mind and has shown the truth of the Buddha Dhamma. The Peace Pagoda which, in silence tells the world the value of that Dhamma, befits the intentions of the Ven. Fujii Nayake Thero. I hope that the attention of the world will be focussed on the brave proclamation that man lives to serve man, irrespective of colour of nationality. It is a great priviledge to us that he come to Sri Lanka to build this Peace Pagoda. While expressing my great pleasure for getting an oppertunity to issue a message on this occasion, as the President of the Japan Sri Lanka Peace Pagoda Construction Society I wish Good health and long life to the Most Venerable Nichidatsu Mahanayake Thero.

Ven. Batugedra Yassassi Nayake Thero
& President of the Japan Sri Lanka
Peace Pagoda Construction Society.

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であります。

戦争の炎は、教主釈尊の御教えによってのみ消すことが可能であります。（猊下は戦争の恐しい結末を示されながら）世界に宣ねく教主釈尊の御教えを弘められる藤井猊下の行動は、世界の国々と平和を求める人々の素晴しい御手本となるでありましょう。

猊下はやさしさと慈悲の象徴であられ、テラバダ仏教の国スリランカにも、この上ない心のやさしさを示されておられます。

またこの宝塔建立によって、幾世紀もの間の文化交流は更に強化され、日楞二国間の平和な関係が、しっかりとした基盤の上に立つであろうことを確信するものであります。

肉体と精神の作用の結果、世界はすでに、核兵器の威力と、その使用の効果を知っております。人権に関する国連白書には、「平和は人の心から生れ、教主釈尊の御教えの真理を示す」と述べられております。沈黙のうちに教主釈尊の御教えの価値を世に教える宝塔は、藤井猊下の御誓願の結果として生れたものであります。肌の色や国籍の違いを超え、人間に捧げるために生きる、という猊下の勇気ある生き方に、全世界が注目することを希望すると共に、猊下がスリランカを訪ずれ、この宝塔を建立されたことは、私達にとり、大きな栄養であります。落慶法要にあたり、メッセージを届ける機会を与えられた喜びを、ここで述べるとともに、日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立協会会長として、藤井日達猊下のご健勝とご長寿を心から祈るものであります。

仏足山貫首
日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立協会会長
バドゥゲダラ・ヤサッシ大僧正

平和を求める声は、世界の隅々から沸きあがっております。言葉や討議にとどまり、その為立ち消えてきた平和の声は、天からの使い藤井日達猊下によって世界に届けられたのであります。私達、スリランカ国民は、猊下の御仕事に加えさせていただいたことを、大へんな栄誉と思っております。

スリランカを訪ずれ、仏足山頂上附近のバトン参詣路のニッサンカ岩窟に住まわれ、そして仏足跡を礼拝された藤井日達猊下は、日本にもどられた後、現代文明のもたらした、病に苦しむ世界の国々を歴訪され、核兵器の恐しさを説かれたのであります。

平和の勝利を象徴する、記念すべき仏足山宝塔建立の大仏事は、藤井猊下を始めとする尊敬すべき方々によって創設された、日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立協会の名目により、極めて短期間のうちに完成されたことは、この上ない喜びであります。スリパーダのガングラターナの宝土は、四五年前、藤井猊下がこの地にご修行されたご縁と、スリランカの聖地という事実から選ばれております。建立資金は全額、日本の仏教徒がご供養されたの

うにあたっての前政府並びに現在の政府のご協力に感謝するものであります。バトウゲドラ(ヤサシ)長老の協賛により、この宝塔建立が可能となったことを、ここで申しあげることを喜ばしく思います。長老の後援は、日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立協会に大きな助力となりました。

マハボディ　ソサエティ長老

ハディガレ・パンニヤティッサ大僧正

仏足山宝塔

教主釈尊のすべての御足跡のある仏足山に、宝塔が建立されたことは、世界の全ての仏教徒にとって、随喜すべきことであります。この宝塔は、日本山妙法寺山主、藤井日達猊下のご後援を得て、日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立協会によって建立されたものであります。

第二次大戦中、大惨事を経験し、苦しんだ日本の人々は、もう再びこのような悲劇が起らないようにと、世界平和をもたらすために、努力を惜しみません。日本の藤井猊下の御誓願も世界平和の実現であります。このような仏舎利塔を建立することによって、世界平和は広がるという、藤井猊下の強い信念であり、猊下はこの信念に基づき、世界中に宝塔を建立する御誓願を立てられました。

インドにおける最初の宝塔が、ラジギール(王舎城)に建立されました。この後は、ヨーロッパの国々に宝塔を建立される予定であります。

現在九三才の猊下は真の菩薩である。藤井猊下は全生涯を仏教の大義に捧げられ、スリランカの国民は猊下のお仕事に心から感謝すると同時に、御健康と御長寿を御祈りいたします。仏舎利塔建立という大きな仕事を行な

大統領、J・R・ジャワルダナ閣下のスピーチで述べられていたように、閣下が、日本の戦後の完全自由を保障する道を擁護され、スリランカに対する賠償金を拒否されたことによって示されるごとく、この両国に於ける親密な関係の発展に、大きく貢献されたことを確信するものであります。

藤井猊下の建立された仏足山宝塔は、この両国の関係を、更に強化しました。猊下が三宝の御威徳と教主釈尊の暖い御弟子で御自身あられたスンマナ神をはじめとする、全ての神仏の御加護により、御誓願を成就させるべく、御健勝で御長寿遊ばされん事をお祈り申上げます。

ていくべきと思います。

しかし、そのこと以上に大切なことは身をもって平和を示していくことであります。

第二次大戦後、このお手本を身をもって世界に示された英雄が日本の藤井日達猊下であります。猊下は、次に世界の大戦が勃発した場合の人類の全滅を示すことによって、四五年以上の間、全世界で非暴力運動を展開し、世界中に可能な限り、いたる所に平和の象徴であります仏舎利塔を建立してこられました。全世界の人々が兄弟として、平和と調和の中に生きることを実現させるべく御誓願を立てられました。

藤井猊下は、最初の仏舎利塔を建立する為に、スリランカを訪ずれられたと伺っております。猊下は、この島を一九三三年に訪ずれ、その宝土として仏足山を選ばれ、仏足山に通ずるハットン参詣路にあるガングラテーナに位置するニッサンカ岩窟で一〇〇日間、仏足山を献身的に礼拝され、瞑想されたことは周知の通りであります。世界中に、仏舎利塔を建立するというお考え、御誓願を立てられたのは、この期間であったのではないかと推測されます。その為に猊下は、日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立協会を創立され、宝塔建立は完成しました。今年二月二五日に落慶法要が営まれ、スリランカにとっても大きな栄誉であります。

猊下も同様にスリランカ及びその国民に対する、愛情と敬意をお持ちであるからこそ、スリランカに宝塔を建立される、御決心をされたと思はれます。猊下による宝塔建立が、日本・スリランカ両国の調和ある文化交流の促進のみならず、スリランカの経済発展の為の協力へと結びつくことを期待します。

両国は過去に於いて、親密な関係を様々な分野で確立して来ましたが、より広い分野における関係が、近年促進されました。

ラーマニヤ　ニカーヤ管長

インドゥルウェル・ウッタラナンダ大僧正

仏舎利塔

世界の全ての人々は平和を望むべきであります。種々の戦争および紛争に巻き込まれずに生活できる、これ以上の幸せはありません。しかし、平和を享受するには幾つかの障害があるようであります。これらの障害を生み出す原因は人間の欲望であります。

人間本来の性によって、人々は様々なものに対して欲望にかられます。他の国より優位に立とうとする努力というものは欲望の結果であります。

仏教によると、全ての戦争、紛争は人間が生来持つ欲望の結果から生じたものであります。全ての戦争、対立、論争が国家間の戦争へと発展します。それ故、平和で調和が保たれている間にあらゆる努力がなされなければなりません。

第二次世界大戦によってもたらされた悲劇は名状し難いものがあります。今となっては、あの戦争がもたらせた苦しみを再注目することさえ何か重苦しく、また考えようによっては不必要にさえ思えます。

私は、今あの忌まわしい戦争の悲劇についてあれこれ語るよりも平和のもたらす益について積極的に語り合っ

宝塔建立には、多大な資金がかかっています。この偉大なお仕事に挺身されておられる猊下、及びお弟子方、そして協力者に三宝の恵みが与えられんことを祈願するものです。同時に猊下の御健康と御長寿を、スマナ神（仏足山の神）にお祈り致します。

同情、中道」を教えています。

もし世界の人々がこの道を歩むことが出来るならば、これこそ平和への真の道と言えるでしょう。

アショカ大王は、教主釈尊の説かれたこの道を実践しようと試み、平和に生きるべく人々を教え導きました。

藤井猊下は同様にして、この道を歩まれ、世界平和の価値を説かれています。藤井猊下が一九三三年にスリランカを訪れ、スリパーダのガングラタナにあるニッサンカの岩窟に暫らく住まれたことは、良く知られています。日毎、聖なる仏足跡にお参りなされ、残りの時間は、瞑想のうちに過ごされました。猊下がスリランカに住まわれていたのと、時を同じくして、村から町へと歩かれていた「三木」というお上人がおりました。現在、老人ホームを経営されている三木上人は猊下の御弟子であります。三木上人には一九七五年に日本を訪ずれた時にお目にかかりました。お上人がシンハリ語を上手に話されたことを良く記憶しています。

スリランカ滞在中、猊下を捉えたスリパーダを宝塔建立地として選ばれたことは、まことに賞賛すべきことです。仏教徒の住む国々に、平和のメッセージを弘められる一方、平和の象徴として各地に宝塔を建立されるのが、猊下の崇高な御誓願であります。

この御誓願を達成される為に、各国における平和を愛する人々は協力を惜しみません。スリランカにおいても、猊下に対する協賛は決して小さなものではありません。日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立協会及び、マリガカンダのマハボディー・ソサイティーが、このような協会です。これら二つの組織の協力により、宝塔のみならず、参詣者の為の二階建のお寺さえ出来ました。これを知るのは、仏足山を訪ずれた者のみです。これを知るにつけても、如何に猊下が、スリランカの国民を愛しておられるかということが明らかです。

アマラプラ　ニカーヤ管長

コスゴダ・ダンマワンサ大僧正

世界平和の夜明け

テーラバーダ(上座部派)仏教国スリランカにおいて、御仏舎利塔を建立する動機を、まず検討するのが適当ではないかと思います。

第二次大戦中、米国によって広島・長崎に投下された爆弾によって行なわれた人間の最も悲惨な虐殺を世界は決して忘れることは出来ません。

しかし、この恐ろしい出来事以前に既に、日本の藤井猊下という名高い高僧によって、非暴力運動が展開されていました。しかし、広島・長崎の惨事がさらにこの運動に生命を吹き込んだことは疑う余地もありません。広島・長崎の悲劇が主な原動力となり、猊下は世界各国を訪ずれられ、世界に平和の尊さ、価値を説かれました。これらの御巡錫中、猊下は「親から、平和が失なわれた為に引き起こされた破壊を見て来られたに違いありません。」

このような経験に基づく知識を得られた後、一つの家族の一員として、全ての人々が平和に暮らすことを実現するのが猊下の純粋な誓願となりました。このような状況を創り出す為、仏教では基本的に「親和、友好、慈悲

参籠されている間、仏足山に関する啓示を受けられたことからであると伺っています。

猊下は両国の仏教徒の友好のきづなを強められました。将来両国間の宗教的な結びつきが更に深まり、小乗仏法の伝統・習慣が日本全土に広まることを希望いたします。

シャム　ニカーヤ　アスギリ派管長

パリパラ・スリ・チヤンダナンダ大僧正

仏教徒の指導者、藤井猊下の発願と日本の仏教徒の御供養によって建立された、仏足山宝塔は今日目出度く落慶法要を迎え、日本及びスリランカの仏教徒の友好の記念碑となることでしょう。

藤井猊下は過去四十五年以上の間、世界各国を訪れ、戦争がもたらし、かつ、現在ももたらしている、大惨事と平和の必要性について説かれ、世界の多くの人々にやさしさ、慈悲、そして友好の心を植えられました。

戦争を渇望し、自国の地位向上のため、弱少国を征服しょうとしていた日本は、現在戦争放棄をうたっています。軍事力強化の目的のために使われていた富とエネルギーは、国家発展の為に向けられました。それにより、日本は今日世界で最も大きな経済発展をとげた国となりました。

日本の国民はスリランカ及びその国民に敬意をはらうと同時に、小乗仏教の伝統と僧を敬う心を持っています。日本の人々は便宜主義者は好みません。これは日本を我々が訪れた時に明らかに知ることができました。日本の仏教僧は非常に良く組織され、積極性に富んでいます。藤井猊下は約四十年前にスリランカを訪れ、安詳として百余ケ日スリパーダに御参籠遊されました。猊下が、仏足山を宝塔建立の地として選ばれたのは、仏足山周辺で

シャム ニカーヤ マルワッテ派管長

シリ・マルワッテ・アナンダ大僧正

個人であれ、集団であれ、世界の全ての人々は、常に自由で平和な生活を送りたいと願っています。これを実現する唯一の方法は、仏教の教えを知的に正しく理解し、それに基づき行動することであります。このような平和の基礎として、日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立は、記念すべき画期的出来事であります。

さらに、教主釈尊が悟りを開かれて、八年目にして三度目のスリランカ御訪問の際、その御足で清められたスリパーダ(仏足山)に、この記念すべき宝塔を建立するという誓願は、賞賛すべきことであります。

この記念すべき宝塔の建立によって、現在の日本とスリランカとの間の平和な友好関係が、さらに強化されることを祈るものであります。

インド共和国連邦首相

モラルジー・デサイ閣下

教主釈尊の教えは、人類の最も偉大な宝であります。

仏教は多くの国の人々を結びつけ、そしてその慈悲と平和のメッセージは、人類の未来にとって、本当の価値を知らしめるでありましょう。

日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立事業の成功を、心よりお祈りいたします。

ニュー・デリー

一九七八年一月二十四日

展に甚大な貢献をされました。藤井日達猊下の数度に亘るスリランカへの御訪問の結果生まれました仏足山宝塔の建立は、スリランカと日本の、宗教・文化の絆を強くさせてゆくことでありましょう。

このようにして建立される御仏舎利塔の鎖の輪が、世界平和と調和の実現に寄与されることをお祈り申しあげます。

スリランカ共和国　大統領

ウィリアム・ゴパーラワ閣下

日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立落慶供養の法要にあたり、このメッセージをお届けできることを、大きな喜びと存じております。

日本山妙法寺の後援を得、日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔建立協会によって、建立されましたスリパーダの日本・スリランカ仏舎利塔は、平和を愛する両国国民の平和祈願のシンボルとなることでしょう。教主釈尊の訪れによって霊場となったスリパーダが、建立の地に選ばれたことも、なお一層、この仏事の重要性を高めております。高度に発展した科学と経済に包まれた現代社会は、かってなかった程、世界の平和と調和を必要としております。この面でも、世界中に教主釈尊の御教えを広布することになるであろう。この仏舎利塔は大きな意味があるのであります。

すべての国家国民が、戦争や紛争ではなく、仏法の道に従えば、平和、寛容、そして調和によって満ちあふれる未来が確約されるのであります。

過去にスリランカに仏法を広める為にいらした仏導師は、仏教文学及びパリ語を通して、スリランカ文化の発

められました。

寶塔の湧現するところには、自然に御仏舎利が現れます。深く感謝致します。

私の悲母は四七年已前の今月昨日遷化されました。今日の寶塔湧現の大仏事も、悲母の冥加と信じて、また感謝致します。

私は一九三二年、楞伽に渡り、仏足山を参詣し、ここの岩窟の下に、枯草を敷いて、数百日間修行精進し、一九三三年八月二五日山麓のギニガッテーナの新寺院に一泊し、住持のN・ピヤラタナ上人より、仏舎利を授与されました。

上人は「日本国は世界平和建設のために仏法を興隆して、大いに活動して下さい。そのために、日本国に仏舎利塔を建てて下さい。」と申されました。

一九四五年、世界第二次大戦は終了し、日本国は広島と長崎とに原子爆弾の被害を受けて敗戦降伏し、その結果、国家の根本方針に、「軍備撤廃」・「交戦権抛棄」の憲法を制定し、純ら文化国家・平和国家として世界に寄与せんことを誓いました。

平和国家建設のために、寶塔建立の誓願を発し、今日に至って約五十基の寶塔が湧現しました。さらに、世界平和建設のために、インドの王舎城(ラージギル)、王律作(カリンガ)に仏舎利塔を湧現せしめ各地に寶塔建立が企てられつつあります。また、アメリカ合衆国のサンフランシスコ・ボストン・ワシントン等にも寶塔が湧現します。スイスのジュネーブにもソ連邦にもまた寶塔建立を発願しております。

私の後半生の菩薩行は起塔供養の一事でありました。これは楞伽国に伝来せる仏教を学んだものであります。楞伽の国土は城邑聚洛いずこにも、寶塔は充満しておりますが、私は楞伽の仏法がいよいよ興隆して、世界平和建設の大燈明となって、現代に横行する物質文明・機械文明・殺人文明の黒闇の中に恐怖におののく一切衆生に安穏の楽を施さんがために、ここに一基の寶塔建立を発願致しました。

仏足山の貫首、バッゲダラ　ヤサッシ猊下は、去る二三日、一粒の御仏舎利を授与して、この寶塔に奉安せし

楞伽国仏足山大寶塔定礎式法語

南無妙法蓮華経

惟時　昭和五十一年太歳丙辰二月二十六日

世界において、最も古き仏教の伝統・歴史・信仰・習慣を有する仏教国、聖楞伽(スリランカ)の国の中にて、最も神聖なる仏教の中心地として恭敬礼拝される仏足山(スリパーダ)の寒霞渓(シイタガングラ)に、二千三百年来初めて、起塔供養の大仏事が、日本と楞伽との仏教徒によって発起され、昨日(二十五日)と本日、大法要が開催されました。

ウィリアム　ゴバーラワ大統領はこの法要に参列して、定礎の儀式を行われました。これによって、楞伽国の仏教はいよいよ繁昌の機運を迎え、日本の仏教との連繋が一層親密になりました。

仏足山は二千五百年の往昔、大恩教主釈迦牟尼世尊、御年三十にして、伽耶城に遠からざる道場菩提樹下において成道遊ばされ、鹿野苑に赴いて五比丘のために初めて四聖諦の法輪を転じ給いしより約十二年間、各地を巡錫して四阿含の経文を説き、その後楞伽国に渡り、仏足山頂において諸菩薩のための大乗楞伽経を説かれました。楞伽経は翻訳されて、日本国に現存しております。

く現在の我が身の上の未来記なりしか、今仏足山に止住する青年男女、皆是れ二千五百年の往昔、教主釈尊の金口に由って、指定せられ、予告されて、末代の一切衆生救済の為に、如来滅後五五百歳始観心本尊の妙行を修行する事を得たるは実に過去の夙善厚き我が身の使命なりけりと自覚する時、誰れか感激せざらん哉。

是大寶塔は毘首羯摩天の造立する処也。毘首羯摩天は、天上に在って降り下らざれども、地上の青年に、寶塔建立の技術を授けぬ。

地上の青年は、天上に昇り上らざれども、毘首羯摩天より、寶塔造立の技術を授かりぬ。

さればこそ寶塔建立に未熟の青年数十名、全然原始的手法に由って、此の大寶塔を、僅かに十ケ月にして落成せしむる事を得たり。

古今寶塔湧現の歴史にも、比類無き速疾頓成の大寶塔也。

今将に世尊に奉る。哀愍を垂れて納受し給へ。

『世尊は七日、大海の中に住し、然して後に、竜宮を出て、安祥として此岸に昇り給ふ。復仏の威神力に由て、仏に対して、已が名を称ふ。我は是れ羅刹(ラセツ)王十首の羅婆那(ラバナ)也。今仏の所に来詣し奉る。願くば仏、我及び楞伽城中の所有る衆生を摂受し給へ。

過去の無量の仏は、咸く此宝山の頂に楞伽城に住して、如来所証の法を説き給へり。世尊も亦応に然る可し。彼の宝厳山に住して、諸の菩薩衆に囲繞せられて、清浄の法を演説し給へ。

請ふ、仏世尊、無量の夜叉衆(ヤシャシュ)を哀愍するが為に、宝厳城に入り、此妙法門を説き給へ。此妙なる楞伽城は、種々の宝を以て厳飾せられ、墻壁は土石に非ず。羅網は悉珍宝也。願くば仏、哀みて納受し給へ。』

爾の時に世尊、即之に告げて曰はく、

夜叉王よ、過去世の諸の大導師は、咸く汝を哀愍し、汝の勧請を受けて、宝山の中に詣り、如来所証の法を説き給ひき。未来の諸仏も亦復是の如くならむ。

此れは是れ、甚深の観心修行を修し、法楽を現ずる者の、止住する処也。我及び諸の菩薩は、汝を哀愍するが故に、汝の所請を受けむ」已上経文

謹んで此の経文を案ずるに、仏足山はひとり教主釈尊の、転法輪の霊場なるのみならず、過去無量諸仏の転法輪の霊場にして、しかも又未来無量の諸仏の転法輪の霊場也。かくて仏足山は三世諸仏の転法輪の霊場也。衆宝所成の霊山、衆宝厳飾の霊山にして、永久に神仙の護り給ふ霊山也。

仏滅後二千五百年、闘諍堅固の大悪起り一切衆生全滅の恐怖に曝らさるゝ時、此の宝山に住して、「甚深の観心本尊の修行を企て、天鼓自然に鳴て、自受法楽を示現する者の、止住する処也。」と説かれたるは、是ぞ正し

佛足山大寶塔落慶供養法語

日本山妙法寺
沙門　行勝院日達

南無妙法蓮華経
惟時昭和五十三年太戈
戊午二月廿五日

聖楞伽国（スリランカ）、仏教最勝の霊地仏足山（スリパーダ）の中腹、寒霞渓（シタガングラ）に、教主釈尊の御舎利を供養せんが為に、大寶塔を建てて、朝野遠近、緇素貴賤相集会して、落慶供養の大法要を挙行し奉る。

此聖地に、一度び起塔供養の誓願を発すや、聖楞伽国仏教の諸大長老は、直ちに随喜協賛の意を示し、聖楞伽国の大統領は、是の御仏舎利塔建立を以て、世界平和祈念の本尊として、親ら地鎮祭を執行せられ、聖楞伽の国民は、老若男女、挙って此の大寶塔に参詣し礼拝供養して、仏教繁昌の瑞相を欽喜し奉りぬ。

抑も仏足山の縁起は、遠く教主釈尊の御親化に始まる。楞伽経（ランカ スートラ）に曰く、

「爾の時に、羅婆那（ラバナ）、楞伽（ランカ）王は、頌を説いて曰く、

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インド共和国連邦　首相
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シャム　ニカーヤ　アスギリ派管長
アマラプラ　ニカーヤ管長
ラーマニヤ　ニカーヤ管長
マハボディ　ソサエティ長老
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落慶法要法語・祝辞集

廣供養舍利

昭和五十三年太歳
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日本山妙法寺大僧伽

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